

[Veterans](#) | [Defense Industry](#) | [Seapower Subcommittee](#)

One of the most important roles of Federal government, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution, is to “provide for the common defense.” The men and women of the United States Armed Forces do this every day, at home and abroad, protecting the United States and her Allies. As a veteran of the U.S. Army and the father of three Marines, Congressman Akin knows the sacrifices made by military families. As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and the ranking Republican member on the Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee, he has demonstrated the country’s shared gratitude to the members of the armed forces and continued commitment to our nation’s promise to protect and reward them for their service.

American troops protect U.S. interests and stand up for the rights of oppressed people around the world. They go into the hottest spots and are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this country. These warriors are the world’s first line of defense against the expansion of tyranny. Congressman Akin is committed to ensuring that the men and women of the nation’s armed forces have the best possible equipment and support and has worked to ensure that the troops have what they need to succeed wherever they are sent.

While some argue that our nation spends too much money on defense, Congressman Akin believes that our national security should be the first priority of the federal government. In the 1990’s our nation cut back on defense spending and we developed a hollow military—lacking good equipment and training. We cannot allow this to happen again. We must maintain a strong military, not so that we can fight, but so that we can deter bad actors from fighting us.

Veterans

As a veteran himself, and the father of three Marines, Congressman Akin is deeply aware of the enduring duty our nation has toward those who have worn the uniform of our country. Veteran service members deserve our continued gratitude. Every veteran and his or her family should be confident that the United States government will keep its promise to give them the best possible healthcare. Veterans from previous wars, as well as the growing number of veterans from Iraq, Afghanistan and the Global War on Terror deserve our thanks and our support.

- Concurrent Receipt – Congressman Akin has cosponsored numerous bills and voted for a number of amendments to fix the concurrent receipt problem facing disabled veterans. Veterans who are disabled while serving should receive full payment of both their retired pay and their disability compensation.
- Survivor Benefit Plan – Congressman Akin has also cosponsored bills and voted for amendments to repeal the dependency and indemnity compensation reduction that is applied to Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiaries. The SBP is program that members of the military can opt to pay into and the government should not renege on its commitments.

Defense Industry

Missouri has the fifth largest concentration of defense related industries in the country. The St. Louis region is the proud home of numerous companies supporting our armed forces in all kinds of ways—from fighter aircraft to cybersecurity to chem-bio protection, with large to medium and small companies across the region. The defense industry in St. Louis allows us to support our troops and gives thousands of Missourians skilled, well-paying jobs in manufacturing, research and development. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Akin has worked hard to support the St. Louis defense industry.

- [EA18-G Growler](#) – Congressman Akin was an early advocate of developing an electronic attack variant of the F/A-18 Super Hornet. Congressman Akin obtained funding in the 2002 and 2003 defense bills which allowed for early development and integration work, paving the way for the Growler to become a model defense program. The Growler will both extend the Super Hornet line in St. Louis and provide the Navy with a modern electronic attack asset.
- Defense Industry Forum – Congressman Akin has been working diligently to promote the St. Louis region's defense industry. The Congressman hosts an annual forum where leaders from the St. Louis defense industry gather to both hear key speakers and interact with one another as they seek to grow the industry in St. Louis. A strong defense industry is good for our nation and brings high tech, high paying jobs to St. Louis.
- C-17 Globemaster – Congressman Akin has worked to keep this production line alive, as it is the only long-range military cargo aircraft currently being produced. C-17's are being used to deliver humanitarian supplies in Darfur and military supplies in Afghanistan. Continuing production only makes sense.

Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee

In January 2009, Congressman Akin was named the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces. In this position, Congressman Akin is the top Republican in the House of Representatives on all issues facing the Navy and Marine Corps. He works to make sure that our sailors and Marines have everything they need, both today and in the future, to win every battle. Prior to serving as the Ranking Member of the Seapower and Expeditionary Forces, Congressman Akin served as Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee.

- F/A-18 Super Hornets – Congressman Akin, in his role as Ranking Member of the Seapower Subcommittee, successfully added an amendment to authorize a multi-year contract for Super Hornets. This ensures that the Navy gets the fighter planes they need and maintains stability for the production line in St. Louis.

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